

AFNS Review

Compiled from the Air Force News Service

March 16, 1998

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Air Force's Collins is first female shuttle commander

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980305) - Air Force Lt. Col. Eileen Collins will become the first woman to command a space shuttle when Columbia launches in December for the STS-93 mission.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton made the announcement March 5 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Joining Collins on the flight deck are Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey S. Ashby, pilot; and mission specialists Steven A. Hawley, Air Force Maj. Catherine G. "Cady"; and French air force Col. Michel Tognini.

Selected as an astronaut in 1990, Collins has served as a pilot on her two previous space flights. Her first space flight was STS-63 in February 1995 as Discovery approached to within 30 feet of the Russian space station Mir, in a dress rehearsal for the first shuttle-Mir docking.

In May 1997, she visited Mir as the pilot on board Atlantis for the sixth shuttle-Mir docking mission, delivering Astronaut Mike Foale and returning Jerry Linenger to Earth.

Saying that she was excited to be at the White House for the announcement, Collins added, "Since I was a child I've dreamed about space. I've admired pilots, astronauts, and I've admired

explorers of all kinds. And it was only a dream of mine that I would some day be one of them and have these kinds of opportunities."

The colonel said her selection is the high point of her career in the Air Force and with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"I've been given important jobs and responsibilities," she said, "and I now accept this responsibility with all the determination and the motivation and the diligence that I've had in all the other challenges I've faced."

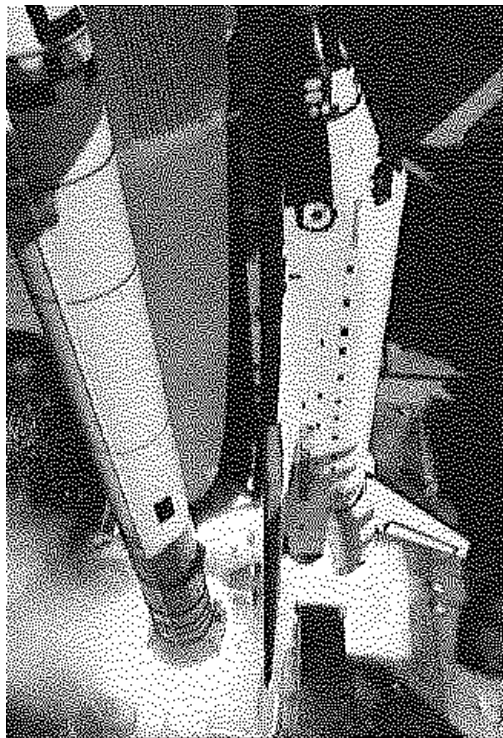
She also paid tribute to the trailblazers, noting, "I didn't get here alone.

There are so many women throughout this century that have gone before me and have taken to the skies."

"Heroes come in every size and shape and gender," said President Clinton. "Today we celebrate the falling away of another barrier in America's quest to conquer the frontiers of space and also to advance the cause of equality."

The president added that as a

distinguished graduate of Syracuse University, the colonel has already set an excellent example for children to follow, especially in light of recent surveys that show the United States falling behind other countries in math



and science.

"Perhaps with her well-adjusted new fame, the greatest mark Colonel Collins will make will not just be written in the stars, but here on Earth — in the mind of every young girl with a knack for numbers, a gift for science and a fearless spirit," said Clinton. "Let us work to make sure that for every girl and every boy, dreams and ambitions can be realized and even the sky is no longer the limit."

During the five-day mission in December, the crew will deploy the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility Imaging System, which will conduct comprehensive studies of the universe. AXAF will be the most advanced X-ray telescope ever flown.

When scientists begin using AXAF next year, they will finally be able to unlock the secrets of some of the most distant, powerful and violent objects known to exist in the universe, according to NASA officials.

They will study such phenomena as exploding stars called supernovae; objects called quasars; and mysterious black holes so massive that everything near them is pulled

inside causing an explosion of X-rays that AXAF can study.

JCS chairman gives 'stockholders' report

by Paul Stone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980335) — The "Chairman of the Board" presented his annual report to "stockholders" during a March 2 address at Washington's Sheraton Hotel.

But this chairman was actually Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Army Gen. Hugh H. Shelton. And the stockholders were actually members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who had gathered for their annual convention.

Shelton said he felt like the chairman of the board reporting to stockholders because of the veterans' long-time investment in national security.

"You gave your youth, your time, your sweat and hard work," Shelton told the 2,000 veterans gathered for his address. "And in many cases you gave your blood to keep us free and strong."

Shelton told the packed room U.S. forces remain strong and ready to respond to crises throughout the world, including fighting two major theater conflicts.

Citing operations in Iraq, Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda and Haiti, Shelton said U.S. forces have contributed to a safer world while building new security arrangements left in shreds after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"Other nations can be important regional powers, but only the United States is truly a global power," Shelton said. "And that ability to project our military anywhere in the world and with overwhelming strength, is crucial not only to our security and prosperity, but also to the peace and stability of the entire world."

While the news was good, the chairman also told the veterans there are concerns on the horizon. Citing the booming economy, Shelton said it is more difficult to recruit for infantry soldiers and retain pilots. Additionally, he said "our men and women in uniform and their families are

challenged to keep up with the demanding tempo, and rigorous training combined with frequent deployments."

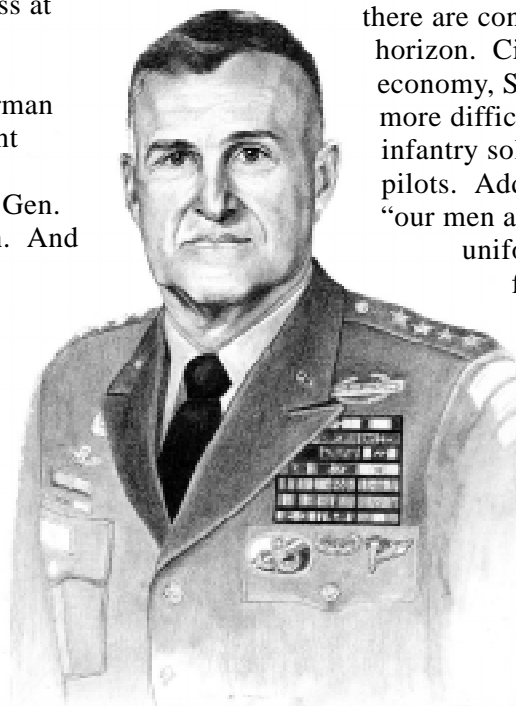
He pointed out service members have conducted

more than four dozen major operations in the last four years, and said more than 50,000 troops are currently deployed in 12 major operations throughout the world today.

Shelton said improvements have been made in tracking operations tempo. The Department of Defense is also scaling back exercise programs. But he emphasized America's role as the only remaining superpower has resulted in greater responsibilities, especially with the revival of ethnic, tribal and religious conflicts previously kept in check by the Cold War.

Shelton told the veterans the military has done everything it can to cut costs and asked for their help in building the military of the future.

Although sensitive to the need for



AFNS Review

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B. Kim McDonald Jr.

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balanced budgets, Shelton said, “we have to find the resources to invest in new technology and new systems to keep our force up to date.”

He called on the veterans to help get congressional support for programs outlined in Defense Secretary William Cohen’s Defense Reform Initiative, including additional rounds of base closings, privatization of some functions, streamlining operations and improving business practices.

“We need the Congress to make the tough decisions,” Shelton said. “And we’ll need your support as we work with legislators and the American people to build a 21st century armed forces for a 21st century America. With their support we cannot fail. Without it, we cannot succeed.”

Military medical care system responds to national change

by Staff Sgt. Cheryl L. Toner

Air Force News Service - 980332

WASHINGTON — “We’re doing something that has never been done before,” said the Air Force Surgeon General recently about TRICARE, the Department of Defense’s health maintenance organization.

TRICARE is the largest HMO in the world, according to Lt. Gen. Charles “Chip” Roadman, and he admits getting the system up and running wasn’t easy. “There have been bumps in the road,” he said. “Some have been predictable, some were unanticipated.”

The DOD health care system, which underwent major changes from CHAMPUS to TRICARE in 1995, is actually driven by a train larger than the military according to the general. “It’s a national issue,” he said, and it’s “critical” for everyone to understand this.

TRICARE is not something a group of out-of-touch individuals dreamed up. It is actually a response to the combination of the military drawdown and changes to the



civilian health care system, Roadman said. “The civilian sector is transitioning from inpatient to outpatient service,” he said, while “payment systems are transitioning from a fee-for-service to a prepaid system.”

The TRICARE system is designed to sometimes refer military people and their families to civilian doctors, but the general said some perceive referrals as a faulty military medical care system.

As the national health care system changes, the military must follow suit. “We have to build a system that can exist in the world of reality — not what we wish it was,” he said. “Everyone would say let’s go back to the way it was before ... let’s go back to where our country didn’t have to worry about health care as a national issue.”

Roadman said the American government spends 16 percent of the gross domestic product on health care. “That’s twice as much as any other developed nation,” he said.

And, while the other nations spend half as much, “they have universal access to health care.” This is, the Air Force Surgeon General said, the fundamental issue “that we as a nation have got to deal with.”

He said TRICARE is a small part of those transformations and “I think the biggest problem with TRICARE is that nobody wants to change. And, the fact of the matter is, change is a necessary thing — particularly as fast as the world is moving today.”

While the military health care system goes through a metamorphosis, and many actions are intertwined, a few of the big changes in the system are having patient load drive local health care staffs, and having a medical team responsible for care, providing better continuity in care.

Clinics and deployable units — or Air Transportable Hospitals — were previously manned based upon population instead of actual patient load and their specific needs.

Roadman said the Air Force is now deploying people for reasons other than all out war — like humanitarian aid — and deploying an entire ATH isn't always necessary.

"TRICARE should fix our access problems by defining our population requirements rather than defining the staff requirements and taking care of them if you can."

Also, some base clinics don't get much traffic. "We have some clinics that admit four patients a day," he said. Not only is it not cost-effective to have a staff sitting on their hands for the better part of the day, he said those same people are losing valuable skills because they aren't using them.

People will not only see that change, but they'll also see the same doctor, or medical team, when visiting the clinic. Flight medicine clinics in base hospitals already operate this way - where the medical staff knows the fliers, spouses, children, occupations and the risks that are there, he said.

Roadman said the time is right for this change. "We need flight medicine for everybody so, when they become ill, they know who they can go to," he said.

As the military adjusts to this HMO, Roadman thinks that overall the system is working well. "I have great confidence in TRICARE," he said. "I hear people say the jury is out on TRICARE. I don't think the jury is out. I think it is going to work and it's going to work very well."

More information on TRICARE can be found on the Internet at <http://www.ha.osd.mil>.

DOD establishes anthrax vaccination homepage

KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980322) — The Department of Defense has set up a Web site to provide information on the anthrax vaccination program.

The site is located on the DOD official Web site, DefenseLINK, at

http://www.defenselink.mil/other_info/protection.html.

The Web site contains news releases, news briefings and official policy on the force protection decision first announced by Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen in December.

The anthrax vaccine is to be given to the 36,000 U.S. servicemembers now serving in Southwest Asia beginning March 9.

The Army is the executive agent for the program, headed by Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Ronald Blanck. The mandatory immunizations will begin this summer for all other active-duty and reserve component service members.

Last aviation cadet leaves Air Force

by Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzaman
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON — Given his druthers, Maj. Gen. David C. Gildart would have ended his career without fanfare. Almost four decades after receiving his wings, the golf course beckoned.

However, the Air Force inspector general would not have the last uniformed former aviation cadet — who, by the way, serves as the IG's mobilization assistant — leave the service without a final salute.

Thus Gildart was the center of attention at a modest retirement ceremony March 5 at the office of Lt. Gen. Richard T. Swope, the Air Force IG. With the conclusion of the congratulations and thanks, an era of aviation history that predates the Air Force came to an end.

Thirty-nine years ago a young David Gildart studying at the University of Maine could only imagine a career in the Air Force. He was already flying light airplanes when his brother, a crew chief in the Maine Air National Guard, told David about the aviation cadets.

The program started before World War II, training airmen to be pilots even though they had not earned

bachelor's degrees. The Air Force took charge of the program after the service was created in 1947 and continued it until 1961. For two decades a large portion of Air Force pilots could claim entry into the military as aviation cadets. But with the opening of the Air Force Academy and Officer Training School in the late 1950s, the days of aviation cadet training were numbered.

Gildart's January 1961 graduating class was one of the last four in the program, and he counted the first group of academy graduates among his pilot-training classmates. The mix also included Guard and Reserve people, along with prior-enlisted airmen who had completed two years of college.

"The same day we got commissioned, we received our wings," Gildart said.

A distinguished graduate, he was offered and accepted a regular Air Force commission to begin seven years of active duty.

He served in the Vietnam War October 1965 until October 1966. Flying close-air support in A-1 Skyraiders, he amassed 250 combat missions, sometimes going out on two or three missions a day.

Amid the exchange of gunfire, Gildart emerged unscathed.

"I had a good guardian angel," he said, noting that during his year in Vietnam, 11 members of his squadron were killed and another two taken prisoner.

After he returned from Vietnam, Gildart ended his active-duty service and joined the Guard. In 1981 he switched over to his final command, the Air Force Reserve.

When Desert Storm erupted in January 1991, he was mobilization assistant to the Tactical Air Command deputy commander for operations, Maj. Gen. Michael E. Ryan, now the four-star Air Force chief of staff.

From his perspective at TAC, Gildart could see the "drastic change" between air power in Southeast Asia and that launched in

the Persian Gulf. Besides the new weapons and tactics, the general appreciates the mesh of the total force of active-duty, Guard and Reserve components.

"It's the difference between night and day," he said, looking back over then vs. now. "I remember back in 1970 when Secretary of Defense Melvin Laid started the Total Force concept within the Air Force. It's become a benchmark for the rest of the services to follow.

"Today in the inspector general's office, the deputy IG is a Guard major general who is on active duty for two years. Twenty to 25 years ago, that didn't happen. If you look around, you can now find that throughout the Air Force."

Gildart spoke with the confident ease of a silver-haired airline pilot assuring a jumbo jet full of people that they will reach their destination safe and sound. Not coincidentally, he also has 21,000 hours of commercial air piloting under his belt, another career that will soon end.

"It's gone fast," the general said of his Air Force ride. One by one over the last 39 years his aviation cadet classmates have bid adieu to the active-duty, Guard and Reserve force until Gildart was the only blue-suiter left. Now he too would turn the page.

"I've had a great time and worked with some great people," he said, "but there's a time for everybody to move on and retire."

But strong ties do not easily break. The ex-cadet admitted that if he could, there was one thing he would do over:

"I wish I was 25 years younger because I'd love to fly some of these new airplanes. If I could find someone to change the time, I'd start all over again."

Space capabilities vastly improved since Gulf War

by Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hoffman
Air Force Space Command
Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE,
Colo. (AFNS - 980334) — Improved



space-based systems allow the U.S. military to be more informed, precise and deadly than it was during the 1991 Gulf War, says the commander in chief of U.S. Space Command.

"Space operations have matured, and continue to mature quickly," said Gen. Howell M. Estes III. "Space is now integrated into air, land and sea operations instead of just supporting them."

Although the hardware in space, at ground stations and in the hands of warfighters driving planes, tanks and ships has improved; the most significant gains have been made in getting the right information to the right people at the right time.

"The key to winning a conflict now and in the future, is moving information to people who can do something with it," said Estes, also the commander of Air Force Space Command.

One area that has seen vast improvement is theater missile warning.

During the Gulf War it took nearly five minutes to alert people on the ground of a Scud missile launch. Now, although the exact warning time is classified, it is "dramatically better," said Estes.

This was done by creating a new way of processing data from Defense Support Program satellites. The ALERT (Attack and Launch Early Reporting to Theater) system went on-line in 1995 and continues to improve and refine the way information is processed from each \$400 million DSP satellite. The improvements enhance the effectiveness of missile defense systems and allow more time for noncombatants to seek shelter.

The Global Positioning System also provides unique capabilities to the services not envisioned when the first GPS satellites were launched 20 years ago. GPS was originally designed to provide 24-hour navigation services, which it does well, but is now also used to deliver precision-guided munitions.

"This new generation of smart weapons will save lives," said Maj. Gen. Gerald F. Perryman Jr., who commands AFSPC's warfighting arm — 14th Air Force. "Our pilots are no longer tied to their target ... they can 'fire and forget' thanks to the accuracy provided by GPS targeting and guidance systems. New, precision-guided munitions allow one pilot on a single pass to take out

several targets. This makes space technology a real force multiplier — it allows us to send fewer people to do the same job.”

Perryman pointed out the 24-satellite GPS constellation is also a neutralizer of traditionally bothersome environmental factors.

“The Navy’s Tomahawk cruise missile can fly day or night, in rain and fog, or through heavy battlefield smoke due in a large part to GPS,” he said.

Communications and intelligence are other big winners in the continual improvement of space systems.

“Any field commander will tell you they don’t have enough comm(unications),” said Estes.

“Today, however, we have a fully developed and very robust communications. We are in good shape here.”

Intelligence has been harder to exploit and enhance because of the complex lines of command and control and the secret classification of some systems.

“Space Command and the NRO (National Reconnaissance Office) have made significant strides in blending the control of black (classified) and white (unclassified) systems; and more importantly splitting and routing the right information to the right users,” Estes said.

Although space is critical to winning any battle today, many times that fact is forgotten, said Perryman.

“Space-based information has become like electricity or water — nobody really appreciates it until they flip that switch or turn that faucet, and it’s not there. That information is important now, and will become even more critical to our future warfighting capability,” said Perryman.

With all the enhanced capabilities space has provided over the last seven years, it seems logical to believe the United States would easily win any conflict, but that

Three retirement plans, three formulas

With three retirement plans in effect, questions often arise about what the 1980 and 1986 changes to retirement benefits were and why they were made.

The National Security Act of 1947 created the Air Force and made Army retirement laws at that time applicable to Air Force people. Army retirement laws for enlisted people allowed for retirement at 20 years of service under the Armed Forces Retirement Act of 1945.

Starting with the enactment of the Army and Air Force Vitalization and Retirement Equalization Act of 1948, officers were allowed to retire with a minimum of 20 years vs. 30 years.

The military retirement system has changed over the years; however, there are now three retirement systems in effect: Final Basic Pay, High 3 and the Military Retirement Reform Act, or MMRA.

Final Basic Pay applies to people who entered a uniformed service before Sept. 8, 1980. Under this plan, at 20 years of service, airmen are eligible for 50 percent of their base pay.

To reduce the federal budget, Congress and the Department of Defense modified the Military Retirement System twice during the 1980s.

The Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1981, enacted Sept. 8, 1980, authorized the High 3 retirement plan. Those who entered the service between Sept. 8, 1980, and July 31, 1986, are eligible for 50 percent of the average of their highest three years of their base pay.

The MMRA was signed into law July 1, 1986. Under this act, people who entered the service Aug. 1, 1986, or after receive 40 percent of the average of their highest three years of their base pay until age 62.

This equates to roughly 36 percent of the member’s base pay just prior to retirement, because of the effects of averaging the highest three years of base pay.

For example, a master sergeant with dependents and 20 years of service earns about \$40,000 a year in pay and allowances while on active duty; base pay represents about \$28,000 of this amount. Once retired, this master sergeant will receive about \$10,000 a year or

roughly 36 percent of base pay under MMRA.

In comparison, a master sergeant retiring

under the Final Basic Pay Plan will receive about \$14,000 a year (50 percent of base pay), and a master sergeant retiring under the High-3 Plan will earn about \$13,000 a year (46 percent of base pay).

Air Force personnel officials emphasize the positive aspects of MMRA. They note that airmen eligible for retirement under MMRA who stay on active duty beyond 20 years will increase their retired pay by 3.5 percent for each additional year of service up to a maximum of 75 percent of base pay for 30 years service.

This, according to the personnel officials, compares favorably with the 2.5 percent per year increase allowed by the Final Basic Pay and High-3 Plans. In addition, when weighing the value of retirement benefits under MMRA, retired pay is increased at age 62 to 50 percent of base pay (vs. the 40 percent at retirement) for retirees with 20 years of active-duty service.

Those who want to calculate projected retirement pay can contact their local military personnel flight. Another source is the Air Force Personnel Center home page at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/>. Click on Retirements/Separations, then Estimates On-Line where customers can do their own informal calculations in less than five minutes.



unproven assumption concerns Estes.

"There's no question we've made significant technological improvements," said Estes. "However, every service has seen a drastic reduction in manpower over the last seven years. So, it remains to be seen if our smaller force can be as effective as the larger one we had in 1991."

Estes also sees a big change in the way wars will be fought in the future, especially when he looks at the explosion of capabilities the civilian space sector is developing.

"Today there are about 550 satellites orbiting the Earth. In the next 10 years it's estimated there will be more than 1,500 commercial satellites launched. This is going to create a new way of doing business, especially in the areas of telecommunications and remote sensing," said Estes. He predicts this will create new lines of commerce and a vast change in national and military priorities.

"Instead of running to exploit and defend oil fields like we've done in the industrial age, we will be running to space in this new information age." (Courtesy of AFSPC News Service)

Reserve volunteers continue to support U.S. in Gulf

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS - 980303) — Talk of imminent war with Iraq may have stopped, but Air Force Reserve Command's support of the U.S. military buildup in the Persian Gulf region has not.

By March 3, three weeks after Defense Secretary William Cohen approved the deployment of more U.S. aircraft to Southwest Asia, Reserve crews flew 149 airlift and 26 air refueling missions, logging more than 2,850 flying hours. All of these missions were performed by volunteers, many of whom had to take time off from their civilian jobs to support the Air Force's air mobility effort.

Air Force Reserve Command's contribution to this buildup is significant, according to command officials. During the same period, Air Mobility Command reported that its active-duty, Air National Guard and Reserve forces flew 300 airlift missions and nearly 200 air refueling missions.

C-5 crews accounted for most of the Reserve's support, flying 92 missions totaling 1,818 hours. Other airlifters flew 28 C-141 missions during 540 hours, 14 C-130 missions covering 96 hours and 15 C-17 missions totaling 173 hours. Reserve air refuelers logged seven KC-10 missions over 147 hours and 19 KC-135 missions covering 83 hours.

Although United Nations weapons inspectors may return to Iraq, President Clinton has ordered U.S. forces to remain in the region until Iraq demonstrates compliance with the agreement reached Feb. 24 between Saddam Hussein and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

On that same date, the president signed an executive order authorizing the call-up of 500 National Guardsmen and reservists. Reserve officials are confident that they can count on volunteers to support the active force. In any event, the active force is likely to call on Reserve volunteers to help bring those additional troops and equipment home from the Persian Gulf after the latest crisis calms down.

During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in late 1990 and early 1991, more than 20,000 Air Force reservists were called up to help force Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Reserve offers NCO leadership courses

by Master Sgt. M. Gail Floyd
Air Force Reserve Command
Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS - 980295) — Air Force Reserve Command is targeting mid-

and senior-level noncommissioned officers in an all-out effort to make them better supervisors and managers.

Retooling the two-week NCO Leadership Development Program and developing a two-day Senior NCO Leadership Training Course were steps the command took in strengthening the communicative and leadership skills of these dedicated citizen airmen.

Although neither are professional military education courses required by the command, both pay big dividends for the military and the civilian job sector. That's how Chief Master Sgt. Carol Smits, AFRC senior enlisted adviser, views these courses. She believes in giving people the tools that help them perform at their maximum potential. She knows these courses foot the bill because she asked the people they affect the most —reservists.

"We're not offering just another course to take," Smits explains, "but something that's going to benefit our reservists in their civilian workforce and their military jobs."

NCOLDP provides junior and future NCOs with knowledge and hands-on experience they require stepping into supervisory roles and operating successfully within a total quality environment.

"I'm getting feedback from civilian employers who say their companies are already reaping the benefits, and they appreciate that we took the time to offer and encourage reservists to take AFRC courses. It's a win-win for the student, for the commander, and for the Air Force Reserve Command."

The NCOLDP, geared toward staff and technical sergeants, emphasizes management theories, leadership skills, time management, communication, counseling and stress management in the workplace.

When reservists complete the course, they are accredited with two semester hours of management toward a Community College of the Air Force degree.

Smits found that many reservists who attended the course went back to their units rejuvenated and motivated to put to practice what they had learned. But the flip side of the coin revealed these same people now have obtained new leadership skills training previously unavailable to senior NCOs. That's when the senior NCO course was conceived.

The goal of the senior NCO leadership course is to enhance the leadership skills of senior NCOs through a complex series of team experiences, individual presentations and written exercises.

"Our staffs and techs look to senior leadership to be the brightest and the best. When that's not the case, you have a breakdown in communication," Smits said. "We're now offering masters, seniors and chiefs an opportunity to participate in an exciting and innovative program, which will provide them with the required skills necessary to operate in today's environment. You can't look up to your 'role model' if that person isn't able to perform what you expect of them."

The senior NCO course is taught twice a year at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Lackland AFB, Texas; and March Air Reserve Base, Calif. The course isn't meant to be basic leadership 101, but it does give senior NCOs a firmer foundation in which to lead.

There are three essential objectives critical to the successful completion of the course — communication, trust and teamwork, according to Chief Master Sgt. Steven Slachta, AFRC program manager.

"Each objective builds on the participants existing skills and abilities, and encourages the participants to strategically plan solutions to current AFRC issues," Slachta said.

"I challenge our senior NCOs to step up to the plate if they want to be a part of this viable company (AFRC)," Smits said. "We're moving forward briskly toward having a fully educated enlisted

The Security Environment is Changing

Yesterday

- Known adversaries and understood threats
- Nation survival at stake
- Homeland at risk of Soviet nuclear attack
- Humanitarian and "lesser" operations a sideline
- Limited access to "leading edge" technologies
- Slow spread of nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons
- Combat oriented to open plains, deserts
- Extensive forward-basing structure
- Information an adjunct to weapons

Tomorrow

- Unpredictable opponents, unknown challenges
- Vital interests at risk
- Homeland at high risk of limited terrorist attacks
- Multiple humanitarian and "lesser" operations the norm
- Global technological proliferation
- Rapid spread of NBC weapons
- Conflict also likely in cities, and jungles, mountains
- Project power increasingly from the U.S.
- Information as a weapon/target

SOURCE: "GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT: A VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY AIR FORCE"

supervisory force that will lead us to the next millennium."

For more information on these courses, contact Slachta at 1-800-223-1784 Ext. 70225. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Joint Staff garners award for outstanding achievement

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980302) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton has approved the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for members of the Joint Staff, including the office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Intelligence Agency/J-2 for exceptional outstanding achievement

The award has been approved for the period of Jan. 2, 1995 through Sept. 30, 1997.

Other units approved for the award include: Joint Warfighting Center; Joint Warfare Analysis Center; U.S. Delegation, United Nations Military Staff Committee; U.S. Representative, NATO Military Committee; U.S. Military Representative, PJBD; and U.S.

National Military Representative to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Eligibility for the award is limited to those U.S. military forces present at the time and who directly participated in the service or achievement for 30 days or more for the JMUA.

Military members must be assigned or attached by official orders to the joint unit receiving the JMUA. Local commanders may waive, on an individual basis, the 30-day minimum requirement for individuals — Air Force Reserves on active-duty or temporary duty personnel — who, in the purview of the commander contributed directly to the achievement cited, and were assigned on official orders to the awarded unit during the timeframe.

Members eligible for the JMUA should report to their servicing military personnel flight's career enhancement section and provide supporting documentation verifying they were assigned to the unit. Supporting documentation includes performance reports, copies of decorations citations with special orders, certificates of achievement signed by an on-site commander, travel vouch-

ers, etc. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs)

Commercial fleet flies bulk of troops to Southwest Asia

by Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Fidler
Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs (deployed)

HUNTER ARMY AIR FIELD, Ga. (AFNS - 980301) — Gerda Mueller first flew American troops into Vietnam in 1969, and she states emphatically that she prefers flying them out to flying them in. Since then, the German-born, in-flight service manager has surrounded herself with military people for most of her nearly 30 years flying with World Airways, a commercial airline company helping Air Mobility Command ferry soldiers to Southwest Asia.

More than 20 commercial planes flew nearly 5,000 Army troops from nearby Fort Stewart Feb. 16-24, and nearly 150 of AMC's C-5s, C-141s and C-17s took on more than 3,500 tons of cargo and equipment like helicopters, trucks and Humvees.

Mueller's MD-11 aircraft, parked about 100 yards from the hangar full of soldiers preparing for a 17-hour flight to Kuwait, is one of many selected civil aircraft from U.S. airlines contractually committed to the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, or CRAF.

On the flightline here, towering passenger planes like 747s, MD-11 or L-1011s from various airline companies are parked directly in front of the hangar. Army and Air Force crews filled their cargo bellies with duffel bags and prepared them for their overseas flights. Airfield controllers with the 615th Tanker Airlift Control Element deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., guided them through takeoff.

This fleet provides a significant portion of the nation's mobility resources. During emergency operations in which the airlift requirements exceed AMC's capability, the commander in chief of U.S.

Transportation Command, as authorized by the secretary of defense, may activate the CRAF.

It was not activated for the troop movements under Phoenix Scorpion II, the AMC arm of the recent Southwest Asia buildup, although the airlines pledged aircraft to the fleet, ready for activation when needed. For this operation, the airlines voluntarily provided the aircraft needed.

To provide incentives for these carriers to commit to the program, AMC awards peacetime contracts to commercial airlines that support the program. The largest of contracts is called the International Airlift Services Contract.

In essence, the military buys the seats, while the carrier operates and maintains the plane and other support. AMC awarded nearly \$650 million of airlift business to CRAF carriers in fiscal 1997. As of Jan. 1, 37 carriers and 684 aircraft were enrolled in the fleet.

Victor Marchioni, captain of a Tower Air 747, landed at about 2:10 a.m. Feb. 23 and started preparing for the more than 350 Army soldiers boarding his plane within a few hours. A half-hour later, another Tower Air 747 parked nearby.

"I feel real good about this," he said of flying U.S. troops. "I see a lot of these service men and women going to the Middle East, and they are pretty enthusiastic and professional. They know they're here to do a job, and sometimes they don't get the credit they are due. We're here to provide them the best service."

Coupled with this service, a strict safety program ensures the carriers meet high airlift standards. Maj. Johnny Payne, a C-141 pilot and an air carrier survey analyst at AMC headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill., helps provide additional safety oversight for commercial air carriers.

"We go to the corporations and look at pilot training records and maintenance records," he said over the whine of the two 747s and C-5s.

"We also come out at these times, and usually I will fly with them and look over their shoulders to make sure our standards are being met. And they are only going to fly more and more."

He said several commercial air carriers would be much smaller today if not for the military work they do.

"They take a lot of pride in that. Because we are such a big part of their clientele, they really go the extra mile to provide higher quality of care."

Marchioni, a former Air Force reservist whose son is a Reserve avionics technician for C-17 aircraft at Charleston AFB, S.C., holds his mission close to his heart.

"It's rewarding to do this, and we fly them first class. We do anything we can for them." (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

Space systems support joint forces near Iraq

by Senior Master Sgt. Jim Katzaman
Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980308) — As United Nations weapons experts embark on the next round of inspections in Iraq, thousands of U.S. airmen stand poised to attack if trouble erupts.

As 8,700 airmen with more than 200 aircraft warily watch in theater, they have the support of an array of spacecraft passing hundreds and thousands of miles overhead.

If President Clinton orders a strike, aircrews and their arsenal of "smart" munitions would find their targets with the help of a constellation of 24 Global Positioning System satellites, plus Defense Support Program and Defense Meteorological Satellite Program spacecraft.

Their signals would guide an arsenal that includes 30 F-15s, 60 F-16s, 12 F-117s, 18 A-10s, 14 B-52s, 14 KC-10s, 21 KC-135s, three U-2s, three B-1B's, five E-3B Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft and one E-8 Joint Surveillance and

Target Attack Radar System aircraft for ground reconnaissance. Other aircraft, including helicopters, would support special operations forces and aircrew search and rescues.

Typically, these forces can fly missions such as offensive and defensive counterair, air interdiction, close-air support, suppression of enemy air defense, electronic warfare, surveillance and reconnaissance, combat search and rescue, air refueling, airlift, composite force training, information operations and command and control of air operations.

Ordnance at their disposal includes HARM, Maverick, Sidewinder, Sparrow and AMRAAM missiles, "smart" bombs and conventional air-launch cruise missiles. Compared to Desert Storm when smart weapons made up 10 percent of the arsenal, today's force-in-wait would deliver mostly smart bombs and missiles. This places extra emphasis on the circling sentinel of satellites to help put iron on targets.

With this precision engagement, Air Force leaders expect to apply selective force against specific targets. At the same time, military power would be delivered with minimal risk and collateral damage. That means commanders could employ force in measured, but effective, doses. In that grand scheme, help from space is a must.

"Our capabilities are much more dependent on space systems than they were in Desert Storm," said Maj. Gen. Gerald F. Perryman Jr., 14th Air Force commander and Air Force Space Operations component commander at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. "Our capabilities are much greater, and they're much better integrated into our global military operations."

He emphasized that "Air Force space technology has changed the way we do military business. We've learned that space makes our troops safer and more effective, and there's no more efficient means for collecting and disseminating information

about navigation, communication, intelligence, weather and missile warning."

Perryman noted that all military services benefit from Air Force technological advances. He said, "The Air Force Global Positioning System has become the glue that holds today's joint military operations together. Satellites will guide (Navy) Tomahawk missiles to their targets and have made the (Army) Patriot missile much more accurate than in Desert Storm."

Leading the way for gains in targeting accuracy is the Global Positioning System. During the Gulf War the system was still incomplete with not enough satellites aloft to give complete, constant worldwide coverage.

"Now we have a complete GPS constellation," the general said. With 24 satellites orbiting 11,000 miles high, "you'll be able to 'see' four satellites at a time with your GPS receiver on 100 percent of the Earth. Without that in Desert Storm, in some cases that limited us to two-dimensional position capability instead of the precise longitude, latitude and altitude capability we have today."

With GPS in full, reliable operation, pilots are no longer "tied" to targets.

"They can drop GPS-aided munitions from great distances from the target and leave the area," Perryman said. "Often pilots can strike multiple targets with just one pass over the area. The bottom line is there will be fewer pilots in harm's way to achieve the same results."

The general added that "GPS is also extremely valuable when arranging rendezvous such as refueling." The Navy's new survival radio linked to GPS will also speed the search and rescue of downed airmen.

Another space-based system will almost instantaneously detect theater ballistic missile launches. Iraqi Scud missiles are usually airborne for only five to seven minutes, and during

Desert Storm, according to Perryman, "we manually plotted the course of incoming Scuds on a map with pins.

"Since then, we've stood up the 11th Space Warning Squadron at Falcon Air Force Base, Colo., to detect worldwide missile launches. They have the latest computer technology at their disposal. We're confident they can accurately predict the course of a Scud-class missile in ample time for us to pass on warnings to our troops in the field anywhere in the world."

Passing quietly far overhead, Perryman said space systems "don't grab a lot of headlines for our global military operations.

"But make no mistake. We'd no sooner send American troops into harm's way without Air Force space products than we'd send them into battle armed with sticks and stones."

Air Force publishes history about Air Force Reserve

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS - 980310) — People looking for an in-depth history of the Air Force Reserve can check out "Citizen Airman: A History of the Air Force Reserve, 1946-1994."

Recently published by the Air Force History and Museums Program, this 544-page book examines the origins and evolution of the Air Force's citizen-airmen component.

The author, Gerald T. Cantwell, drew upon more than 30 years' experience as an Air Force historian to write the most comprehensive treatment to date of this topic. He became an Air Force historian in 1955 and was the director of historical services for Air Force Reserve headquarters from 1970 until his retirement in 1989. Cantwell died in 1994.

After briefly discussing air reserve policies and programs from 1916-1946, Cantwell focuses on the Reserve's "flying club" days through the implementation of Total Force Policy. Written from the perspective

of national political and military policy, he covers the struggles Air Force Reserve leaders went through to acquire modern equipment and improve personnel policies. A significant portion of the book covers Reserve contributions as a volunteer, mobilization force from the Korean War in the 1950s to the Persian Gulf War of the 1990s and beyond. The book also includes discussions about the air reserve technician and other critical Reserve programs.

"As the Air Force Reserve Command celebrates its 50th anniversary on April 14, Mr. Cantwell's book provides the best single introduction for those interested in learning how the command grew from a poorly equipped and underfunded organization to becoming a equal partner in today's Air Force," said Dr. Charles F. O'Connell Jr., director of historical services for AFRC.

This 13-chapter, illustrated study includes 12 appendices and a comprehensive bibliography and index.

The book is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office in a hardcover edition for \$38. The stock number is 008-070-00729-1. A paperback edition will be available soon.

To obtain a copy, contact the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15250-7954, telephone (202) 512-1800, fax (202) 512-2250, or go to the GPO web page at www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs and click on "sales products" and search for the author's name, "cantwell." (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Free child care for moving families available

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980325) — The Air Force Family Child Care Program and family support centers have joined together with the Air Force Aid Society to test a new program to help relieve some of the

stress felt by families in the process of moving. Under this program, the Air Force Aid Society will pay for up to 20 hours of child care (per child) for families making permanent change-of-station moves.

The program is being tested at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; Dyess AFB, Texas; and Dover AFB, Del. Overseas, the program is being tested at Yokota Air Base, Japan, and Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

Families may receive a certificate at the base the family is departing from and the base where the family is arriving. Certificates will be issued by the base family support center relocation staff for use within 30 days of the family's departure from, or arrival at, the base. The certificate will be valid only on the base where the certificate is issued. Child care will be provided only in on-base licensed family child care homes. A list of licensed providers will be available from the base FCC coordinator.

The program is targeted at staff sergeants and below who may not be able to afford the additional expense of child care at a time when finances are already strained by a move, say Air Force Services Agency officials. Personnel of other ranks may be given certificates when circumstances warrant.

"A PCS move is never easy and children can feel stressed out, too," explained Dr. Beverly Schmalzried, Child Development and Youth Programs chief with Air Force Services. "The intent of this AFAS-sponsored program is to provide parents the opportunity to have their children cared for while they are getting ready to leave a base or arriving at a new base... while packing, unpacking, out-processing, in-processing, house hunting, attending briefings, job hunting, etc."

If the test is successful, it may be expanded to additional bases after the test program ends December 31, say officials.

Civil Air Patrol taps new acting national commander

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFNS - 980333) — Civil Air Patrol's National Board members appointed Brig. Gen. James C. Bobick as acting commander of the Air Force Auxiliary at the group's semiannual meeting in Washington March 6. Gen. Bobick succeeds Brig. Gen. Paul M. Bergman, who resigned CAP's top post for personal reasons.

"I'm honored to be tasked with the awesome responsibility of leading the 58,000 citizen volunteers of Civil Air Patrol," says Bobick. "I'm humbled by the sacrifice and dedication of our members. We, the members, are bound together as a team, and working in unity will accomplish our Civil Air Patrol missions and objectives as we move into the 21st century."

Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael D. McGinty, deputy chief of staff for personnel, presided over of the change of command ceremony March 7 in Washington. Retired Air Force Gen. Russell C. Dougherty assisted McGinty in promoting CAP's former national vice commander to the temporary grade of brigadier general.

"General Bobick seems to be the right leader to move up at this time to be your acting national commander," McGinty told CAP's National Board members. "He has had a very distinguished career in the active-duty Air Force, which encompassed tours in Alaska and the Pentagon. It is such a great thing — my personal opinion — to see somebody who has 45 years in Civil Air Patrol and a good, long active-duty military career to now head this organization."

Bobick will serve as commander until CAP's National Board conducts an election later this year. Until then, Bobick intends to characterize his tenure by emphasizing teamwork among all CAP volunteers: "Teams are the primary vehicles through which work is accomplished. It is no exaggeration then to say that teamwork is the heart and soul of any organization," Bobick advised

National Board members.

"Working with others who have different knowledge bases and skills is a potentially enriching experience. Successful teamwork tends to create loyalty, close friendships, and cohesiveness.

"We will form new teams, get up to speed quickly, and disband gracefully when the task is completed. Informal teaming has always taken place in successful organizations. My task is to consciously create the conditions that support it now," he continued.

"Our readiness extends beyond the organization as well. Joining with CAP customers — the U.S. Air Force, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Customs, state law enforcement, emergency management, education agencies and a host of others — is crucial for CAP to fulfill its missions."

Bobick began his CAP career in 1953, when he became a cadet in CAP's National Capital Wing. He remained active in Civil Air Patrol while pursuing a career in the Air Force. He retired from the Air Force after 27 years of active-duty service.

Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization. It performs more than 85 percent of inland search and rescue missions in the continental United States. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to America's youths through CAP cadet programs.

Promotions to senior master sergeant hit four-year high

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980317) — The Air Force reached a four-year high in its selection rate for promotion to senior

master sergeant as the service selected 1,626 of 20,439 eligibles for promotion, a 7.96 percent selection rate.

The rate marks the fourth consecutive year there's been an increase in the promotion rate. In 1997, the Air Force had a 7.56 percent selection rate, preceded by 1996's 7.31 percent rate and 1995's selection rate of 7.24 percent.

This year's rate is a dramatic increase in the promotion rate when compared to the 1994 promotion rate — just 4.62 percent. Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here say as the current drawdown winds down, promotion percentages are heading up. And, they add, they are optimistic promotion rates to senior master sergeant will remain above the Total Objective Plan for Career Airmen Personnel drawdown minimum promotion rate of 6 percent.

The Cycle 98E8 Senior Master Sergeant Evaluation Board convened Feb. 2-20 at AFPC to evaluate individual records of master sergeants eligible for promotion.

The average total score of selectees during the cycle was 670.54. Average selectee score breakdowns included:

37.57 points, time in grade;
19.96 points, time in service;
134.98 points, performance re-

ports;

17.83 points for decorations;
66.59 points, U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination; and
393.62 board score.

The average selectee has 5.21 years time in grade and 18.83 years time in service.

Those selected will be promoted to senior master sergeant between April 1, and March 1, 1999.

The complete list of senior master

sergeant selections will be posted on the AFPC home page at noon, CST, March 12. The address is <http://www.afpc.af.mil>. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Sea-Air-Space Exposition will 'access the future'

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980306) — The Navy League of the United States will host the largest maritime exposition in the world, the Sea-Air-Space Exposition, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel March 31 to April 2.

With a theme of "Access the Future," more than 150 exhibits of the latest technology will allow members of the U.S. Armed Forces — active, retired, and reserves — U.S. government employees, and Navy League members to meet with experts from the defense industry one-on-one. The exposition offers people a chance to discover the latest technology America has to offer.

Special events, including a gala banquet, special luncheons, and the presentation of the prestigious Nimitz Award for industry leadership, and the Michelson Award for technical excellence and achievement also highlight the three days.

The Navy League of the United States, founded in 1902, is a patriotic, civilian organization dedicated to educating Americans about the need for sea power to ensure our national security and economic well-being. The league has 70,000 members in 330 councils worldwide.

For more information on the exposition visit <http://www.navyleague.org/sas/98geni-1.htm> on the World Wide Web.

The journey of a thousand leagues begins with a single step. So we must never neglect any work of peace within our reach, however small.

—Adlai Stevenson